

MINUTES  
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES  
AUGUST 24, 2001

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, August 24, 2001, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 507 of the Paul B. Johnson Tower of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

**Members present:** Sara Fox, Donald Green, Joanna Heidel, Veldore Heidelberg, Henry Hudspeth, Jimmy Murphy, George Walker, and Lawrence Warren.

**Members absent:** Brenda Collins and David Marsh.

**Staff in attendance:** Dr. Olon Ray, Becky Cade, Dr. Larry L. Day, Deborah Gilbert, Sandra Lucas, Eloise Richardson, Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Dr. Evelyn Webb, and Frankie Walton White.

**Guests in attendance:** Dr. Bill Smith – IHL, and Rab Warnock – Mississippi Delta Community College.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman George Walker called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m., and all guests present introduced themselves.

**PRELIMINARIES**

Joanna Heidel gave the invocation.

**Approval of Minutes of the July 13, 2001, Board Meeting**

On a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Jimmy Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2001, meeting.

**Review and Approval of Agenda**

On a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Jimmy Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda after deleting a purchasing approval request from the Finance agenda.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Olon Ray stated that new SBCJC member, David Marsh, had asked him to convey his regret and apology for not being able to attend the meeting. Mr. Marsh had to attend a funeral but stated that he would be at the next meeting.

Dr. Ray gave the Board a report on distance education, which is comprised of on-line instruction and the Community College Network (CCN). The CCN is a compressed video network that delivers classes around the state. He stated that the CCN is currently under utilized and plans are underway to integrate the system with the Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC) to enhance deliver distance learning opportunities. More of the SBCJC resources will be devoted to distance education. He also discussed staffing changes that will result from using the new electronic reporting for workforce education and audit processes.

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Dr. Ray reported that as of today's date the MSVCC has an enrollment of 7,530 people and includes 395 course sections for the Fall Semester of 2001. He stated that the success of the MSVCC has been much greater than anyone had expected. Jason Pugh, SBCJC Director of Distance Education, will relay some stories and comments shared with him from MSVCC students at a future Board meeting.

Dr. Ray stated that he is spending time working on promoting a transfer to a Full-Time Equivalency (FTE) Funding Formula. Tight budget constraints offer opportunities to continue to work to strengthen the community and junior colleges' position to better deliver services and programs that do not require additional funding.

Dr. Ray announced that the composite budget request has been completed and any Board member wishing to receive a copy may request it from Deborah Gilbert. The composite request is compiled from the fifteen community college budgets. Copies of the SBCJC budget are also available upon request.

Dr. Ray also announced that the Governor has appointed Jimmy Murphy to serve as the SBCJC's representative to the EdNet Board.

Dr. Ray reported that the Commission on Colleges Southern Association of Colleges and Schools reaffirmed the accreditation of East Central Community College on June 21 2001. He congratulated East Central on the reaffirmation.

Dr. Ray also congratulated SBCJC member, Lawrence Warren, on being selected by the Mississippi Economic Development Council as Mississippi's Economic Development Volunteer of the year and the 17-State South Economic Council. Also, this month, Mr. Warren received the 2001 Distinguished Citizen Award, from the Pine Burr Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Dr. Ray distributed a copy of a Time Magazine article featuring the SBCJC Mississippi Quality Awards Program (Exhibit A). The article featured the 2000 Governor's Award winner, North Mississippi Health Services.

Lawrence Warren gave a report on a "First Friday" meeting in Hattiesburg. At Mr. Warren's invitation, I've Burnett and Jason Pugh, SBCJC staff members, attended the program and made a presentation on the MSVCC. Mr. Warren commended them on the presentation.

Henry Hudspeth suggested that a fact sheet giving pertinent details on the FTE funding formula and the MSVCC be developed for Board members information. The fact sheets would give Board members key points they could discuss when talking with members of the Mississippi Legislature about the needs of Mississippi's community and junior colleges. Dr. Olon Ray stated separate fact sheets would be prepared for the FTE funding formula and MSVCC.

## **REPORTS/ACTION**

### **Workforce Report**

George Walker announced that the SBCJC, in response to the State Workforce Development Council's request, had contracted with Mr. Jim Bunch to coordinate efforts of the state workforce and education and the Federal Workforce Investment Act programs.

Mr. Walker stated that Joe Jones chaired the August SWDC meeting. During that meeting an examination of the role and function of the SWDC was reviewed. Coming from that meeting a plan was developed to analyze the status of Mississippi's labor force and to build a strategic plan for future workforce training needs.

Mr. Walker distributed a copy of two newspaper articles (Exhibit B). One article detailed the plans for renovation of Clarksdale's historic Cuter Mansion. The mansion will become part of an educational complex shared by Coahoma Community College and Delta State University. Mr. Walker remarked that a similar center and partnership such as the one between Coahoma and Delta State, could have potential to address needs being experienced on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Mr. Walker gave a brief report on meetings of the Governor's Steering Committee for evaluating the future of education. Consultants working with the committee are in the process of preparing a report with recommendations that will be finalized by the fall of this year.

Mr. Walker reminded the Board of the upcoming Joint Legislative Budget Office hearing set for September 12, 2001. He announced that the SWDC would meet on that morning and invited all Board members to attend.

### **Coordination of Educational Entities**

Mr. Walker reported on meetings with the Chairmen of IHL, the State Board of Education, and SBCJC along with the IHL Commissioner, the Superintendent of the State Department of Education, and the Executive Director of the SBCJC, to discuss cooperation and coordination between the educational agencies. Members of the Board commended Mr. Walker for his efforts in initiating the process of opening dialog between the agencies.

### **IHL Lawsuit**

Dr. Olon Ray reported that a hearing date has been set for October 8, 2001, for the IHL-USM Gulf Park Campus appeal. The Mississippi Supreme Court will hear oral arguments limited to thirty minutes for each side. The public is invited but attendance is not mandatory. The hearing will be live via the Internet for those wishing to watch. SBCJC staff will forward information on the appropriate web address.

### **Status of Goals for FY 2002**

Dr. Ray reported that SBCJC staff members are continuing to work with the colleges to develop workforce and community based training classes. The MSVCC Fall 2001 Semester includes 53 sections of 34 vocational and technical courses and several non-credit on-line courses. On

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August 22, 2001, SBCJC staff interviewed three different vendors that offer on-line commercial non-credit courses. Most of the courses offered by the vendors are computer training programs. SBCJC staff members are working toward interfacing this process with the local community colleges current system.

Also, Dr. Ray updated the Board on efforts to develop a system that will provide a reliable statewide method of granting and transcribing graduates of the GED examination. At present the SBCJC has selected the Oklahoma Scoring Center to score all the GED examinations. Once the process has started, the examinations can be graded and results recorded at a much faster turn around time. This will constitute a major improvement in the way the examinations are being handled at present.

Dr. Ray gave an update on the process of revising the guidelines for calculation of funding for MSVCC students. The Board voted on the policy at a prior meeting. A review of the new guidelines by the colleges' distance learning coordinators has been completed and a memorandum of agreement has been prepared for all participating colleges to sign.

Dr. Ray also updated the Board on the Revised Guidelines and Funding Structure for Off-Campus Sites. The policy was presented to the Board and approved for submission to the Secretary of State's Office to begin the Administrative Procedures process earlier. SBCJC staff members have revised the figures and projections to present a more accurate effect of the change on the colleges. The revised figures will be presented to the presidents on August 28, 2001, for their review and input. After that time, the revised guidelines will be brought back to the Board for action.

Lastly, Dr. Ray reported on the SBCJC goal related to development and implementation of an electronic audit procedure. Dr. Evelyn Webb and other staff are continuing their efforts to bring this procedure to fruition. This will allow staff to conduct enrollment audits from the SBCJC office. This process should save time for SBCJC and community and junior college staff.

#### Consideration of Policies and Procedures

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher presented the SBCJC Workforce Project Guidelines for FY 2002 for approval (Exhibit C). This policy has completed the Administrative Procedures process. Upon a motion by Joanna Heidel, and a second by Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve the SBCJC Workforce Project Guidelines for FY 2002.

Dr. Olon Ray distributed a proposed policy related to Special Called SBCJC Meetings (Exhibit D). He requested that the Board review the policy and invited their comments. Action on the policy will be taken at a future Board meeting.

#### EdNet

Dr. Evelyn Webb reported on August 2, and August 20, 2001, EdNet Board meetings (Exhibit E). She stated that EdNet is continuing to focus on two major issues, (1) the WorldCom settlement, and (2) the preparation to find a new private partner.

At the August 2, 2001, meeting EdNet presented a resolution to Yvonne Brown in acknowledgement of her service to EdNet as the SBCJC's representative from August 6, 1996 to

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July 31, 2001. EdNet discussed an issue that had surfaced related to a 403B benefit plan which EdNet staff contributed to during the past year. EdNet Director, Martin Mangold, researched the history of the Plan, and learned that it had never received approval of the EdNet Board. Mr. Mangold and EdNet attorneys are working to correct this problem.

It was discovered that \$1,790.00 in EdNet funds were listed on the unclaimed property list found on the State Treasurer's web site. Mr. Mangold has completed the appropriate request forms to reclaim those funds.

Dr. Webb reported that the royalty checks from WorldCom have continued to decrease each month. Each month EdNet receives royalty fees in the amount of \$0.79 per Mississippi WorldCom subscriber. As the focus of their business changes and their wireless subscriber base dwindles, so do the royalties to EdNet.

Dr. Webb also reported that it is time to renew the Instructional Television Fixed Services (ITFS) licenses. EdNet staff is working with their Washington Counsel to provide information that must be submitted in the Federal Commission's (FCC) renewal application to expedite this process.

EdNet has retained BIA Financial Group to examine the commercial value on the 20 ITFS channels licenses. BIA is scheduled to present an accurate valuation in approximately 3 weeks.

Dr. Webb reported that EdNet staff is developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to secure a new private partner or partners. A target date of September 1, 2001, has been set for distributing the RFP's.

An issue concerning a possible conflict of interest concerning EdNet's local attorney, Sam Keyes, of the Butler Snow Law Firm, has been settled and Mr. Keyes will continue to represent EdNet in the resolution of contract termination process with WorldCom.

Dr. Webb stated that representatives from all EdNet Licensee groups are meeting regularly to determine directions for developing programming for EdNet.

She reported that the EdNet Board is very pleased to have Jimmy Murphy join as the SBCJC's representative. On behalf of Mr. Murphy and herself, she invited SBCJC members to offer any and all comments about the information included in the monthly EdNet report.

#### Finance Report

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Jimmy Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Education Enhancement Fund and Budget Contingency Fund Disbursements for August 31, 2001, from funds 4080, 4110, and 3295, in the total amount of \$2,712,433.00 (Exhibit F).

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve S. B. 3158 Bond Projects in the amounts of \$48,160,735.00 each (Exhibit G).

Mrs. Fox presented financial statements for funds 2291, 3291 and 4300, for FY 2001, including the lapse period, and funds 2291 and 3291 for FY 2002, for the period ending July 31, 2001, (Exhibit H). No action was required.

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Mrs. Fox also presented the Recap of FY 2001 Support Expenditures for the Board's information (Exhibit I). No action was required.

\*The meeting recessed at 10:20 a.m.

\*\*The meeting reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

#### Approval of Location of Classes for Fall Semester

Dr. Evelyn Webb presented a list of locations of classes for the Fall 2001 semester (Exhibit J). According to the Mississippi Code Section 37-4-3, 6e, it is the responsibility of the SBCJC Board to approve the campus locations determined by the local college trustees to be in the best interest of the individual college districts. Upon a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Joanna Heidel, the Board voted unanimously to approve the list of locations of classes for the Fall 2001 semester.

#### GED Report

Eloise Richardson updated the Board on the activities of the GED Office. She distributed a copy of the Mississippi pages of the U. S. Department of Education's 1999-2000 GED report (Exhibit K). The report is compiled from end of the year reports submitted by all the states, and indicates the number of individuals served through Adult Basic Education, English Literacy, and Adult Secondary Education programs. The report also outlines learner characteristics, gender, and participant's status at the time they enrolled in the GED programs. The second page of the handout shows performance measures indicating demonstrated improvement in literacy skills shown by participants on a state level and compares it to the U. S. average.

Mrs. Richardson discussed the new GED scoring system with the Board. Currently it takes four to six weeks to get examination results. After January 1, 2002, the Oklahoma Scoring Center will be scoring the examinations and results will be available in eight to ten days. The new system will not cost the SBCJC office any additional funds. She also reported that September 29, 2001, would be the last date that anyone can take the current GED exam for the first time. A new battery of GED exams will replace the current exam on January 1, 2002. Currently you may take the GED up to three times in one year. If an individual has taken and passed part of the current GED exam, they must complete and pass all sections prior to January 1, 2002. All previous scores for persons passing parts of the exam will be erased and that individual will be required to take all parts of the new exam. In light of that requirement, GED is allowing individuals a fourth testing opportunity to take the exam before December 31, 2001.

#### Report on LBO Hearing

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher highlighted items included in the Joint Legislative Budget Office Hearing presentation. The hearing is set for September 12, 2001, at 2:35 p.m. in the Woolfolk Building in Jackson. The presentation includes requests for increases for new positions, technology, health and life insurance, travel, commodities, and base operations. He stated that the consensus of the presidents that even in these times of reduced revenues it is important for the colleges to express their needs in a positive manner, asking for any help the Legislature can give them. The request also includes built-ins for new facilities, a request for advanced skills training, and a capital improvements bond request will have new and repair and renovation projects. Part of the

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presentation will include the move to an FTE funding formula that will allow the SBCJC to pay the colleges for part-time vocational and technical students. Mr. Walker requested that the Board be provided with a list of the members of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. Dr. Stonecypher provided each member with a copy of those Legislators. Mr. Walker also asked that a copy of the MACJC Legislative Recommendations be forwarded to each Board as soon as the publication is finished.

#### Consideration of Change in Date for the November and December SBCJC Meeting

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Donald Green, the Board voted unanimously to change the date of the November meeting to November 15 and 16, 2001.

Upon a motion by Joanna Heidel, and a second by Jimmy Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to change the date of the December meeting to December 13 and 14, 2001.

#### Travel Authorizations

Chairman Walker asked for requests to authorize travel reimbursements for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. On a motion by Joanna Heidel, and a second by Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve requests for reimbursement of travel expenses for the following:

George Walker for attending the SWDC meeting and Joint Legislative Budget Office hearing on September 12, in Jackson and a SWDC and State Employment Office seminar on September 20 & 21, 2001.

Reimbursement for any SBCJC member that is able to attend the Joint Legislative Budget Office Hearing on September 12, 2001, in Jackson.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Upon a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Jimmy Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of 25 chairs for the SBCJC Board room.

Upon a motion by Joanna Heidel, and a second by Jimmy Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to amend the motion to approve the purchase of 25 chairs to stipulate that the cost not exceed \$300 per chair.

Veldore Heidelberg reiterated the fact that the MACJC presidents were invited to voice their opinions on the FTE situation. She received a call from one president that was reluctant to come because he felt the MACJC needed to project a unified position. She stated she felt it was important that the Board foster a nurturing environment that would make the presidents feel comfortable to come to the Board to discuss their position on issues whether it be pro or con.

Becky Cade announced that the Mississippi Community College Public Foundation would have a meeting on November 16, 2001, at 1:30 p.m. at the Entergy Building in Jackson.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

  
George Walker, Chairman

  
Olon E. Ray, Executive Director